



HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Health and Community Directorate

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Scrutiny Review Topic Group Thursday 3rd July, 10 am at Runcorn Town Hall

ITEM NO		<u>Action By</u>
	<p>PRESENT:</p> <p>Cllr Shaun Osborne (Chair), Cllr Ellen Cargill, Cllr Pamela Wallace, Howard Cockcroft, Peter Barron, Julie Hunt, Benitta Kay, Emma Mookerji</p>	
1.	<p>APOLOGIES</p> <p>Cllr Linda Redhead, Cllr Kath Loftus, Cllr Trevor Higginson, Cllr Peter Murray, Mike Andrews, Dawn Kenwright, Nigel Wenham</p>	
2.	<p>MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. • Julie confirmed that there is a public leaflet on circulation that is distributed within the community. 	
3.	<p>Contract Monitoring re: agency workers and CRB Checks</p> <p>Benitta Kay, Contracts Officer attended for this item. Through the monitoring of contracts, specifically in terms of recruitment, evidence of certain documentation is required and processes need to be in place. Within the documentation items such as CRB disclosure, proof of ID, references, etc. are required. When providers use agency workers, these are generally required at short notice, but are still covered under the contract. As well as checking the relevant document, the provider also has to be confident about the agency worker going into the home to provide care. The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) also inspect the agencies and are regulated by other bodies (unless HBC have concerns about an agency, then a spot check would be undertaken). Benitta explained that the contracts team also monitor the level of risk. Monitoring takes place annually, is robust and focuses on areas that may have required improvements from the previous year. Intelligence is also gathered from family members, Regulation 37 forms and from staff within the home. There are strong links with families and service-users and procedures in place within homes to encourage concerns to be raised in various different ways. Cllr Osborne asked if Benitta could circulate the standard contract to the group.</p>	BK

	<p>A discussion took place regarding some of the detailed issues that can be picked up through the contract monitoring system that cover safeguarding vulnerable adults – including dignity of care and independence, along with issues connected to sexual relations within care homes. Cllr Osborne asked if an officer with knowledge of the council’s sexual relations policy could be invited to the next meeting. Mal-administration of medication within Halton is recorded as abuse under safeguarding vulnerable adults, which is not the case for other local authorities.</p> <p>Discussed the changing demographics, in particular the growing number of older people, and Peter Barron stated that with community care policies and people living longer, when service-users go into residential/nursing care they are generally more dependent. On average service-users only stay within the home for one to two years, whereas five years ago they would have stayed in a lot longer. It is vitally important that the most vulnerable are protected.</p>	EM
4.	<p>Liaison between HBC and the Police</p> <p>Julie briefed that operational management meetings take place quarterly between HBC and the Police. Through this arrangement, initially a letter of understanding was agreed, setting out the roles and responsibilities of both parties, which has subsequently been developed into a joint protocol and improved communications. The Police are extremely keen to work much closer with HBC, but their resources are limited (only 1 ½ people dealing with safeguarding vulnerable adults). A discussion took place regarding the level of need against the level of resources required for the Police.</p>	
5.	<p>Summary of recommendations to date</p> <p>Howard distributed a page of recommendations to date and a discussion around each one took place. The group agreed the summary of recommendations, which will be included in the draft scrutiny review report.</p> <p>It was agreed that a draft scrutiny review report would be written and presented at the next meeting for discussion/comment from the group.</p>	EM
6.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>There was no other business.</p>	
7.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Thursday 14th August, 10 am in CR1 at Runcorn Town Hall.</p>	